

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 247523

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT JERUSALEM 2673 ACTION SECSTATE INFO AMMAN
TEL AVIV 27 SEP 8.

QUOTE: S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2673

EXDIS

AMMMAN FOR AMBASSADOR ATHERTON

FOR SAUNDERS FROM NEWLIN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED)

SUBJECT: ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH WEST BANKERS/GAZANS

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 13341, (B) AMMAN 7559

1. AFTER DISCUSSION WITH SAM LEWIS AND SUBJECT TO YOUR
APPROVAL, WE PLAN TO INVITE LEADING WEST BANK/GAZA MAYORS
AND NOTABLES TO MEET YOU EVENING SEPTEMBER 29 AT DPO'S

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RESIDENCE IN BETHANY.

2. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, WEST BANKERS ARE BOTH DEEPLY
TROUBLED AND SUFFERING FROM ACUTE FEELING OF ISOLATION.
THERE WAS A BRIEF INITIAL BURST OF EUPHORIA WHEN THEY THOUGHT
THE BREAKTHROUGH ON THE EGYPT-ISRAEL TREATY HAD BEEN MATCHED
BY A CONCOMITANT BREAKTHROUGH ON THE WEST BANK/GAZA. WHEN

THIS PROVED NOT TO BE THE CASE, DISILLUSIONMENT SET IN. YOUR MEETING WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY ALLAY SOME OF THEIR UNDERLYING FEARS AND MISGIVINGS. ALL PRESENT WILL HAVE RECEIVED A SET OF THE CAMP DAVID AGREEMENTS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS.

3. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS, A MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT WILL HAVE HAD THEIR VIEWS SHAPED BY THE ATTITUDES OF THE PLO, SYRIA AND OTHER REJECTIONISTS THAT CAMP DAVID WAS A BILATERAL EGYPT-ISRAEL PEACE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PALESTINIANS. THEY WILL WANT YOUR VIEW OF THE SAUDI, JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN POSITIONS. IN ADDITION, THEY DID NOT EXPECT CAMP DAVID TO PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS, MUCH LESS AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL REQUIRE THEM TO TAKE CRUCIAL DECISIONS AFFECTING THEIR OWN FUTURE. FINALLY, THEY ARE DEEPLY SUSPICIOUS OF BEGIN AND CONSIDER THAT HIS DECLARATIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY, SETTLEMENTS, SECURITY PRESENCE AND JERUSALEM CONTRADICT EITHER THE LETTER OR SPIRIT OF THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON OUR INTERPRETATIONS THEREOF.

4. I RECOMMEND YOU START WITH AN ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY ALONG THESE LINES:

(A) CAMP DAVID WAS A GENUINE BREAKTHROUGH ON THE MIDDLE EAST. IT ACHIEVED NOT ONLY RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF
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THEIR OWN FUTURE, BUT PROVIDED THE PRINCIPLE AND FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH THIS CAN TAKE PLACE.

(B) DO NOT MAKE THE MISTAKE OF MISINTERPRETING CAMP DAVID AS ESSENTIALLY AN EGYPT-ISRAEL SEPARATE AGREEMENT. THE UNITED STATES REALIZES, AS WE HAVE STATED IN THE PAST, THAT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IS AT THE HEART OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND UNTIL IT IS RESOLVED IN ALL ITS ASPECTS, GENUINE PEACE IN THE REGION WILL NOT BE ATTAINED.

(C) THE RESULTS OF CAMP DAVID WERE ACHIEVED, IN LARGE PART, BY THE VIGOROUS AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED STATES. IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSITIONAL REGIME AND THE PEACE TREATY WITH JORDAN AS WELL AS THE FINAL STATUS OF THE WEST BANK, THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A FULL AND ACTIVE ROLE.

(D) THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES, AS THE EXCHANGE ON JERUSALEM HAS BORN OUT, HAS NOT CHANGED.

5. FROM YOUR TRAVELS IN THE AREA, YOU ARE WELL AWARE
OF THE CRITICISMS AND QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE VOICED AND
HOW BEST TO HANDLE THEM. AT SOME STAGE, IT MAY BE
NECESSARY TO ENGAGE IN SOME PLAIN TALK TO THE EFFECT THAT
THE FRAMEWORK WAS THE MAXIMUM THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED
UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE
BEEN OFFERED AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN THE SHAPING
OF THEIR OWN FUTURE, AN OPPORTUNITY THAT MIGHT NOT PRESENT
ITSELF AGAIN FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.
NEWLIN

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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